

DATE: October 25, 2024

TO: The NMSU campus and community

FROM: Valerio Ferme, Incoming NMSU President

SUBJECT: Getting started

Today, I officially accept the presidency of NMSU. My family and I are honored to join the land-grant institution of the state of New Mexico, even as I am humbled by the responsibility that this role entails toward our campuses and communities and, equally importantly, to the citizenry and government of the state.

Firstly, however, I want to thank the Board of Regents for entrusting me with the responsibility; and everyone who, during my visit and immediately after, showed genuine interest and concern, and encouraged me with warm affection to take on the challenges and opportunities embedded in the position.

I am excited to engage the work and the passion, the challenges and the opportunities. More importantly, I am excited to engage the ‘us’ that comes together in our communities. Together, WE can turn possibilities into realities and elevate and enhance the pathways already at work in the current strategic plan.

But I want us to be bolder. We must aspire to a future where NMSU, as the land-grant institution of the state, becomes both a destination and the journey that shapes and renews the university’s double mission to educate and to grow the knowledge-base of our research and creative works; where the measure of our success is provided by the greater success of our students as entrepreneurs, leaders and supporters of the state’s job and knowledge economy; where membership in our internal communities entails leadership and service as the basis for our everyday commitments to access and growth; and where our engagement with external communities, be they in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, Alamogordo, Grants, or across our extension offices in 33 counties and in our relationships with tribal lands, is truly community-based and in service of everyone’s needs.

Today, as I accept the charge of the presidency, I commit to working toward this vision. There’s a saying in Italy that “a sea exists between what is said and what is done.” We will work hard toward fulfilling this vision, but first I will work hard to earn your trust.

Gracias, de nuevo, a todos y... GO AGGIES! (NMSU = Nos Merecemos Ser Unidos!)